

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 080581
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S/S-O :LRFLEISCHER

-----025020 291807Z /47

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080581

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, PRGOV, NI

SUBJECT:RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT
CARTER

REF: STATE 67192

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER WHICH THE DEPARTMENT PRO-
POSED TO THE PRESIDENT AS A RESPONSE TO THE LETTER TRANS-
MITTED BY REFTEL.

THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED NOT REPEAT NOT TO SEND THIS RE-
SPONSE BECAUSE HE WILL BE SEEING OBASANJO IN A FEW DAYS.
YOU SHOULD PASS THE SUBSTANCE CONTAINED IN THE LETTER
TO OBASANJO EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY PRIOR TO
THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL.

QUOTE: DEAR GENERAL OBASANJO:
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 6, WHICH WAS DELIVERED
BY YOUR EMBASSY ON MARCH 13, CONCERNING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN RHODESIA. I APPRECIATE YOUR FRANK PRESENTATION OF
NIGERIA'S POSITION REGARDING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND
YOUR CONTINUING ENCOURAGEMENT OF OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

IN ADDITION TO THE WORTHWHILE CONVERSATION SECRETARY VANCE HAD WITH GENERAL DANJUMA, BOTH MR. VANCE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG DISCUSSED WITH COMMISSIONER GARBA THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA AND STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. AS I HAVE STATED PUBLICLY, THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT INADEQUATE AND CONTINUES TO PROMOTE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ALL THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES IN THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT BE INVITED TO MEET. THE INITIAL REACTION TO THIS SUGGESTION HAS BEEN NEGATIVE OR NONCOMMITTAL. NEVERTHELESS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT HAVING SUCH A CONFERENCE IS A LOGICAL WAY TO PROCEED. IT IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH OUR LONGSTANDING DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ALL RELEVANT PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN OUR JOINT PURSUIT OF A LASTING RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. I HOPE DURING MY VISIT TO NIGERIA WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON WAYS TO HASTEN THE BIRTH OF A MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE WHOSE DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS LEGITIMATE BY ITS PEOPLE AND BY OTHER NATIONS.

WITH WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER.
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COOPER

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